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The Honorable Senator Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Maria Cantwell,

I am writing to express my support of the City of Yakima's Congressionally Directed Spending Request to build the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Community Swimming Pool. During the 15 years I served as the Executive Director of the Southeast Community Center on the Eastside of Yakima's impoverished, primarily People of Color community, we were diligent in creating quality of life amenities for the families, especially the children, who did not have the resources to access the aquatic amenities on the Westside of the City. During my tenure at the Center and since my retirement ten years ago, I have been a strong advocate for locating this much needed pool on the Eastside of Yakima.

For years, community members have been voicing the need for an additional outdoor pool in Yakima. Currently, the only other available pools in the city are beyond walking distance for families who live on the eastside of Yakima. Previously, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park had an outdoor pool, but it was closed in 2005 because it had reached the end of its lifespan. Since the pool's closure, community activists have expressed the need for a community pool to be accessible to Eastside residents. In 2019, the City of Yakima retained a consulting firm to develop conceptual options and scenarios for a community pool to be considered by the City for Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The Outdoor Aquatic Facility Feasibility Study illustrated aquatic needs for the City and identified three options for a potential facility. The proposed project will not only create new opportunities for local residents to cool down in the summertime, but it will also enhance their ability to learn water safety and enjoy the outdoors.

I now see a ray of hope as the City is making every effort to build a pool in that area! AND I AM proud to support the City of Yakima's Congressionally Directed Spending Request to build the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Community Swimming Pool. What a tremendous difference this will make in the lives of our children! This financial investment will create new recreational activities for underserved communities and positively impact the lives of Yakima residents.

Thank you for giving this Congressionally Directed Spending Request your full and fair consideration. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance in the City's efforts to secure federal funding.

Sincerely,